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Poland H.S. students earn honors in science fair

by Fran Crumb, Information Directorate

ROME, N.Y. — Poland Central High School students took the top two places for the Air Force Research Laboratory's (AFRL) Information Directorate Irv Gordy Award as a result of their projects at the 23rd Annual Utica College Regional Science and Engineering Fair on March 24.

A team of judges from the Information and Sensors Directorates at the AFRL Rome Research Site selected Megan Doyle, a junior at Poland Central School, for a project entitled, "The Hottest Bullet." Doyle measured muzzle velocity, projectile weight and explosive charge to determine the total energy of 11 types of rifle shells. In addition to a wall plaque, she will receive an offer of summer employment in the Information Directorate.

The runner-up plaque for the Gordy award was presented to Austin Bonser, a sophomore at Poland Central, for a project entitled "Shedding Light on Wattage." In his project, Bonser measured the actual light output of various wattage bulbs and plotted curves representing power verses the illumination the bulbs provided. Bonser received an honorable mention for a different science fair project last year.

This is the second straight year that a student from Poland Central has been the recipient of the Gordy award.

Dr. Warren Debany of the Information Directorate presented the awards during the banquet following the Science and Engineering Fair.

The Information Directorate also presented honorable mentions for the Gordy Award to three other area students for their projects. Ewe Szymanska, a ninth grade student at Donovan Middle School in Utica was honored for her project "Epinephrine on Heart rate in Daphnia." Other honors from the Information Directorate went to Carolyn Tewksbury, a tenth grader at Clinton Central School, for her project "Stress History of Crust in Southeast Atla Region of Venus," and to a ninth-grade student at Perry Junior High School in New Hartford, Michael Bullwinkle, for his project "Transcontinental Arboviral Enigma."

Dr. Debany also presented Scientific Merit Certificates from the AFRL Information Directorate to a number of other students and projects at the Science Fair. @